

America and the tourist industry in southeast Alaska and the rest of the State of Alaska.

I am quite excited about this piece of legislation, and I do thank the House and the people who did not object to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank everyone for being part of an effort to solve a problem for a State.

MICHAEL BROWN

(Ms. BUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today to wish a happy 25th birthday to Michael Brown, Jr.

The last birthday that Michael Brown celebrated was his 18th, a celebration that was supposed to mark the beginning of his journey to adulthood filled with years of joy making music, caring for animals, and spending time with those he loved. But just 81 days after his 18th birthday, he was shot and killed by a St. Louis police officer.

While I say that St. Louis and I rise today, we have never taken a seat, we have never rested, and we have never stopped striving for a just world, a world where Michael would have been celebrating his birthday today.

To Michael Brown, Jr.: We love you, we miss you, we will never forget you, and in your honor, we bring our struggle for justice from the front lines of Ferguson, which is why I am standing here to the Halls of Congress.

Stand up, don't stand down.

We do this for Mike Brown.

Happy birthday.

FAREWELL TO JACK WALECKI

(Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude to one of the most valued and dedicated members of my team, Jack Walecki.

After over 4 years of service to our country and the people of Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District, Jack is going to be leaving our D.C. office to pursue a law degree at Pepperdine University.

For the past 2½ years, and through some of the most historically significant events in recent memory, I have relied upon Jack's steady counsel as my lead staffer for judiciary issues. His level head and steadfast commitment to his work have been instrumental in helping to right the ship in truly tumultuous times.

More importantly, Jack's easy-going, quintessentially California attitude will leave a lasting mark on our team. We will sorely miss his obscure cultural references and random tidbits of knowledge that would make a trivia master's head spin.

We are all saddened to see Jack leave, but we are also delighted to see him take this next step in his life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jack for all his work and dedication. God has great plans for your life. Our family and staff wish him all the best.

Onward, my friend.

□ 1230

SUPPORT OUR ALLY ISRAEL

(Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in unequivocal support of our ally Israel.

As a sovereign state, Israel has every right and a duty to protect its people from the unprovoked attacks of the Iranian-backed terrorist group Hamas.

It is painful to watch the parents and their terrified children fleeing to bomb shelters as rockets rain down indiscriminately on civilian neighborhoods. Thankfully, our Israeli friends are protected by the Iron Dome, a joint U.S.-Israeli defense initiative that has saved countless lives.

It is shameful that some within our Congress choose to condemn our long-time ally for simply defending themselves. No doubt, if a similar attack took place in the U.S., these same Members would expect our military to protect their homes and communities.

Sadly, we shouldn't be surprised when terrorist groups like Hamas feel emboldened to attack our allies when the Biden administration's policies signal weakness to our adversaries.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to speak up, with one voice, in support of Israel, one of our great allies.

BORDER CRISIS HAS NO END IN SIGHT

(Mr. NEHLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 57 days since Vice President KAMALA HARRIS was named the point person on the border. She still has not visited.

The entire Biden administration continues to distract from, deny, and downplay this public health, humanitarian, and national security crisis.

Apprehensions in the month of April are up more than 100,000, higher than they were in January of this year. This has been ongoing for months, and the administration still has no plan.

The Biden border crisis is costing American lives and billions in taxpayer dollars and is once again placing the responsibility of the Federal Government on individual States.

When is enough enough? When will the Biden administration stop allowing criminal cartels to reap billions in profits from their inaction? When will the Biden administration stop failing to fulfill their constitutional mandate to keep the American people safe? It is anyone's best guess.

But with Democrats controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House, the Biden border crisis has no end in sight.

EXTENDING THANKS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND TEACHERS

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, the problems of today will rest squarely on the shoulders of America's children. There is nothing more foundational to the longevity of this Republic than investing in the next generation.

During this COVID pandemic, educating our students and preparing them to face the battles and turmoil of the future has never been harder. If we have learned one thing through this pandemic, it is that in-person teaching is foundational to future success.

I want to extend the thanks of a grateful district to the teachers of Veritas Christian Academy, headmaster Dr. Robert M. Woods, and other institutions who remained open throughout this pandemic and placed the needs of our schoolchildren first.

Your valiant efforts are seen. Your dedication to America's youth in the face of great challenges is recognized. And your great determination to safeguard our future leaders is of high commendation.

Thank you for all that you do, and I look forward to being back in the district to see you all soon.

CHARTING ECONOMIC CHANGES DUE TO BIDEN POLICY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this chart by the Republican Study Committee shows the difference not just a year makes but what an attitude to governing makes toward making a living and managing families' needs, even enjoying what you have earned and how you see fit to spend it.

Energy independence: Stopping production and oil and gas infrastructure in the U.S. gives higher prices, which are eclipsing \$4 now even in my home State of California.

Lumber: Though our California and Western forests burn millions of acres each year, somehow we have a lack of harvest and lumber shortages, thanks to strange environmental thinking prohibiting the forest harvest and management we need to prevent fires and keep the lumberyards full. I know it is not the logger or the log truck driver making the killing here in the quadruple pricing per board-foot.

Home costs: They ride right up there with lumber as well, and all the other inputs, up 20 percent.

Coffee: Up 50 percent. Coffee has to come from somewhere.